

# Introduction

**N**OAA's NWS provides weather, water, and climate forecasts and warnings for the United States, its territories, adjacent waters, and ocean areas. In performing this critical mission, the NWS provides for the protection of life and property and the enhancement of the national economy.

NOAA customers demand increasingly reliable and specific weather, water, and climate information for use in making key decisions. These customers, including industry, state and local governments, and emergency managers, have multiple demands, all of which point to the need to sustain and improve the observing, forecasting, and warning services of the NWS.

NWS data forms a national and international information infrastructure that is used by other Government agencies, the private sector, the university community, the public, and the global community. Some 90 percent of all presidentially declared



*A trilogy of NWS documents complement the NOAA Strategic Plan.*

disasters are weather related causing approximately 500 deaths and \$11 billion in damage annually. Weather is directly linked to public safety and about one-third of the U.S. economy (about \$3 trillion) is weather sensitive.

This publication, NSIP 05, is a compilation of expected changes in NWS services for fiscal year (FY) 2005. NSIP is designed to quantify and explain planned changes to the public. NSIP 05 is a living document and regular updates will be made available at <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/nsip.shtml>. The most recent updates can be seen by clicking on the "What's New" section on the NSIP page.

## GPRA Goals

The NWS establishes and tracks key service performance improvement goals, and has been recognized as a leader in performance-based management for delivering on those goals. NWS goals, supporting the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) of 1993, are referenced and charted within NSIP, and are submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). GPRA goals represent some of our tangible, measurable objectives. You can find more information on GPRA, at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/mgmt-gpra/gplaw2m.html>.

## Training

The NWS workforce requires a multifaceted set of knowledge, skills, and abilities to efficiently and effectively deliver products and services, and to meet GPRA goals. These are achieved through a broad-based training program comprised of resident and distance learning courses which develop the expertise of our workforce and directly support

operational readiness. Annually, we assess evolving science, technology, and workforce development needs to develop the training program needed in order to prepare our workforce for new and updated services. A substantial portion of the web-based training materials used by NWS staff is available to the public on our Training Portal website at <http://www.nwstc.noaa.gov/nwstrn>.

## Related Publications

Two NWS documents are referenced throughout this publication: the NWS Strategic Plan and the Science and Technology Infusion Plan (STIP).

### Strategic Plan

The NWS Strategic Plan identifies high-level goals, activities, and priorities for FYs 2003-2008. The goals of the NWS Strategic Plan parallel the NOAA Strategic Plan:

- ✓ **Goal I:** Protect, restore, and manage the use of coastal and ocean resources through ecosystems-based management.
- ✓ **Goal II:** Understand climate variability and change to enhance society's ability to plan and respond.
- ✓ **Goal III:** Serve society's needs for weather and water information.
- ✓ **Goal IV:** Support the nation's commerce with information for safe, efficient, and environmentally sound transportation. The complete NOAA Strategic Plan is available at <http://www.spo.noaa.gov/>.

### STIP

The NWS STIP, published in January, 2004, looks into the future and explains how science and technology may evolve NWS products and services. It defines long term strategies, objectives, and programs. The STIP illustrates how the NWS plans to take advantage of scientific opportunities beyond the next ten years. The STIP is posted at <http://www.weather.gov/ost>.

### NSIP 2005

NSIP 05 was written to translate the grand visions of the STIP and the NWS Strategic Plan into specific service improvements. This plan is based on the President's FY 2005 budget request to Congress. Contingent upon congressional funding, the NWS Office of Climate, Water, and Weather Services (OCWWS) will guide development of new products and services, as outlined in NSIP 05.

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